
HERE'S A
PEAK
BUILDING ON OUR BROADBAND COUNTY INVESTMENT



GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

# BUILD HERE

We are inviting internet service providers who are considering expanding wireless and fiber to the premise deployment on the Interstate 70 corridor in western Colorado. This document describes the infrastructure, the market, and the local conditions.

## Summary

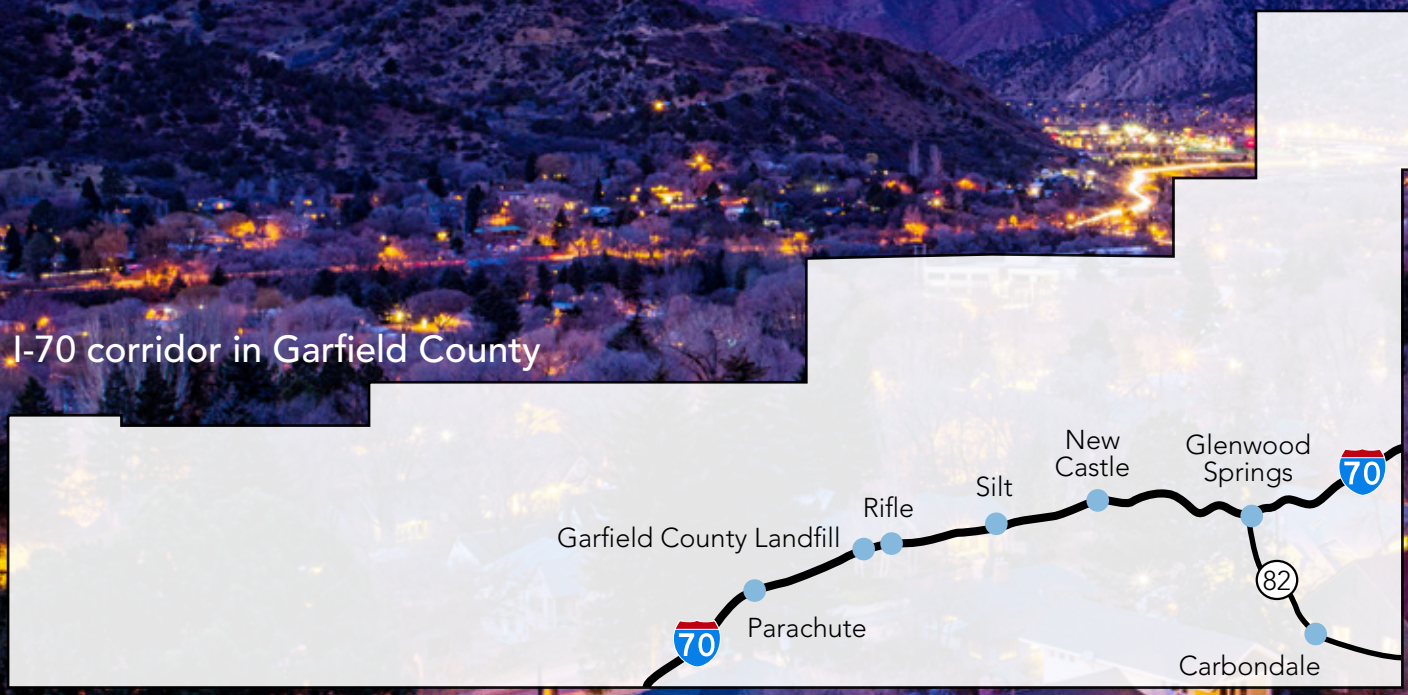
- **Market.** Roughly 4,000 unserved and underserved locations, plus five incorporated towns served today by a single provider.
- **Middle-mile.** Carrier-neutral fiber runs the length of the corridor to internet hubs in Denver and Salt Lake City. Transport, IP Transit and Collocation are available from a regional, wholesale operator.
- **Collocation.** Six carrier-neutral facilities are built, powered, and open — one in each corridor town plus the Garfield County Landfill site — each with laterals already connecting to the I-70 corridor fiber.
- **Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) outcome.** Half of Colorado's and 99 percent of Garfield County's BEAD-eligible locations were assigned to low-earth-orbit satellite. Amazon Leo has no residential customers anywhere in the United States and is not yet commercially available.
- **Permitting.** The county will expedite ISP permits and convene with town managers and councils along the corridor in a single coordinated process.

# THE MARKET

Garfield County connects with roughly 60 miles of the I-70 corridor in western Colorado, from Glenwood Springs to Parachute, with the Roaring Fork Valley extending south to Carbondale. Five incorporated communities — Glenwood Springs, New Castle, Silt, Rifle, and Parachute — sit in a line along a single highway, with Carbondale along Highway 82, and the county's unincorporated households clustered around them.

Trunk distances between towns are short and demand is concentrated inside town limits; a single corridor that already has fiber ties the build together.

The middle-mile network extends east to Denver and west to Salt Lake City, providing dual routes in and out of the Garfield County region.



## Five towns served by a single provider

Although Glenwood Springs has built it own municipal FTTP network, Parachute, Rifle, Silt, New Castle, and Carbondale do not yet have a ubiquitous FTTP coverage. The five towns are classified as "served," which is why they have never been overbuilt — grant funding could not reach them. Comcast is the incumbent in these communities. No provider has built FTTP in them.

## Roughly 4,000 unserved and underserved locations

These are the households and businesses that qualified as BEAD-eligible: no service, or service below the federal threshold. They are distributed through unincorporated Garfield County and the edges of the corridor communities. They have been mapped and documented in detail, and that work product is available to you.

## Verifying availability

Current service levels for any address or project area in Garfield County can be reviewed through the Colorado Broadband Office's public mapping resources:

- CBO Broadband Mapping Hub — https://broadbandhub.colorado.gov
- Colorado Broadband Map (interactive availability viewer) — https://bit.ly/cobroadbandmap
- BEAD-eligible location list and project area map — https://bit.ly/broadbandlocations

CBO Broadband Mapping Hub

Colorado Broadband Map

BEAD-eligible locations list and map

# MIDDLE-MILE SERVICES

Transport is often the largest constraint on rural FTTP economics in mountain Colorado. It is expensive, frequently single-threaded, and commonly sold by the incumbent provider. In Garfield County, transport is available on neutral terms, with lower cost, higher capacity and redundancy options.

Fiber runs the length of the I-70 corridor. Region 10, a regional, wholesale middle-mile operator, holds capacity on that route as part of its western Colorado network. Its mandate is to lower transport and transit costs for service providers rather than to protect a retail margin. Laterals connect that corridor fiber to carrier-neutral location (CNL) facilities in each of the corridor towns. Carbondale is reached by a separate Highway 82 route built with Project THOR and Holy Cross Energy. From the corridor, the path runs to major internet exchange points in Denver and Salt Lake City.

Two points of note:

- The route is diverse. The I-70 corridor fiber, the Region 10 network, and the Holy Cross / Project THOR path are separate physical routes in and out of the region, which supports SLAs to business and anchor-institution customers without building redundancy yourself.
- Pricing is more affordable and competitively priced than incumbent pricing.

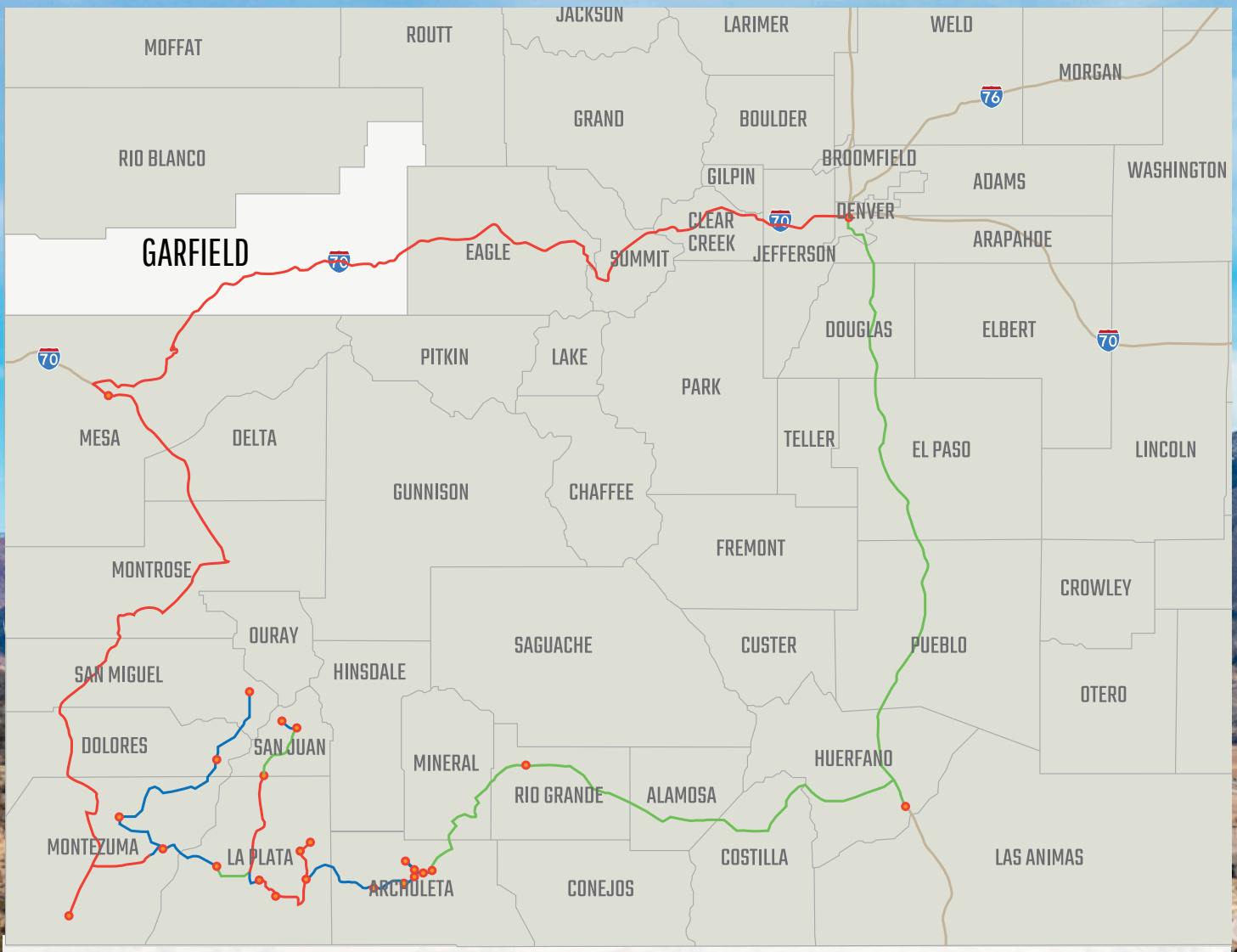
## About Region 10

Region 10 is a regional planning and economic development organization based in Montrose serving Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties. Its broadband program was created to bring abundant, redundant, and affordable middle-mile capacity into west-central Colorado by leveraging existing networks rather than overbuilding them. The network today comprises several hundred miles of fiber and 25 carrier-neutral locations, at which private ISPs can access transport, IP transit, DIA and collocation at a central point in each community and serve residents and businesses from there.

Region 10 does not sell retail service. It provides transport, IP transit and collocation to service providers, which is why an ISP entering Garfield County can buy backhaul without purchasing it from a competitor.



# MIDDLE-MILE SERVICES




Region 10 regional middle-mile network and carrier-neutral locations in west-central Colorado. Red lines depict routes currently in place. Green and blue lines depict routes being planned. Region 10 has connectivity to carrier hotels in Denver and in Salt Lake City, providing east-west resiliency for network optimization.

## Region 10 — transport and collocation

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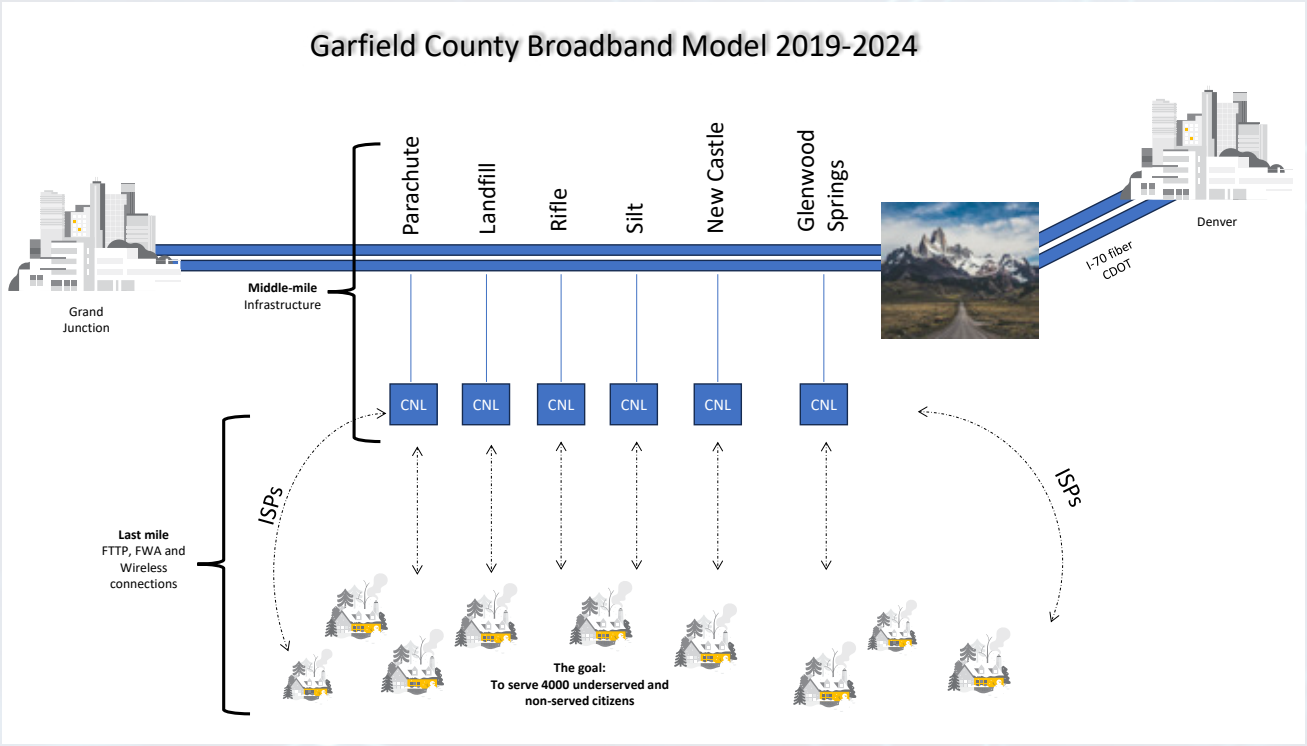
970-249-2436



# CARRIER-NEUTRAL LOCATIONS

Garfield County operates six carrier-neutral locations — provider-agnostic collocation facilities in each corridor community plus the Garfield County Landfill site west of Rifle, each connected by existing laterals to the corridor fiber and onward to Denver and Salt Lake City.




The graphic above captures the efforts made by the county to improve infrastructure in and out of the region and facilitate better broadband services to residents. The purpose of this report is to highlight the initial recommendations from the broadband roadmap and to provide an update on efforts to implement these recommendations.



Parachute CNL



Landfill CNL

# CARRIER-NEUTRAL LOCATIONS

The CNL facilities allow an ISP to land equipment, meet transport providers, and launch last-mile distribution in each town without negotiating access from a competitor and without constructing a middle-mile facility of its own. They are built and powered.

| Facility | Serves | Connection |
|---|---|---|
| Glenwood Springs | County seat; Roaring Fork Valley gateway | To corridor fiber via existing City of Glenwood Springs route |
| Rifle | Largest western corridor town; regional services hub | Direct lateral to corridor access point |
| New Castle | Corridor town and surrounding unincorporated area | Lateral to corridor fiber |
| Silt | Corridor town and surrounding unincorporated area | Lateral to corridor fiber |
| Parachute | Western terminus; gateway toward Grand Junction | Lateral to corridor fiber |
| Garfield County Landfill | 0075 CR 246A, Rifle — west of Rifle off Anvil Points Road; unincorporated area west and south of Rifle | County-owned site; adjacent to the Anvil Points tower and within line of sight of a substantial unserved population (see below) |

The corridor facilities provide route diversity between towns in the distribution design, with connectivity to Salt Lake City and Denver.

# SUNLIGHT PEAK



## Site
Sunlight Peak

## Location
Above Glenwood Springs; elev. ~10,500′. BLM ROW to 2047

## Structure
New 195′ self-supporting tower; new 20′ × 20′ shelter

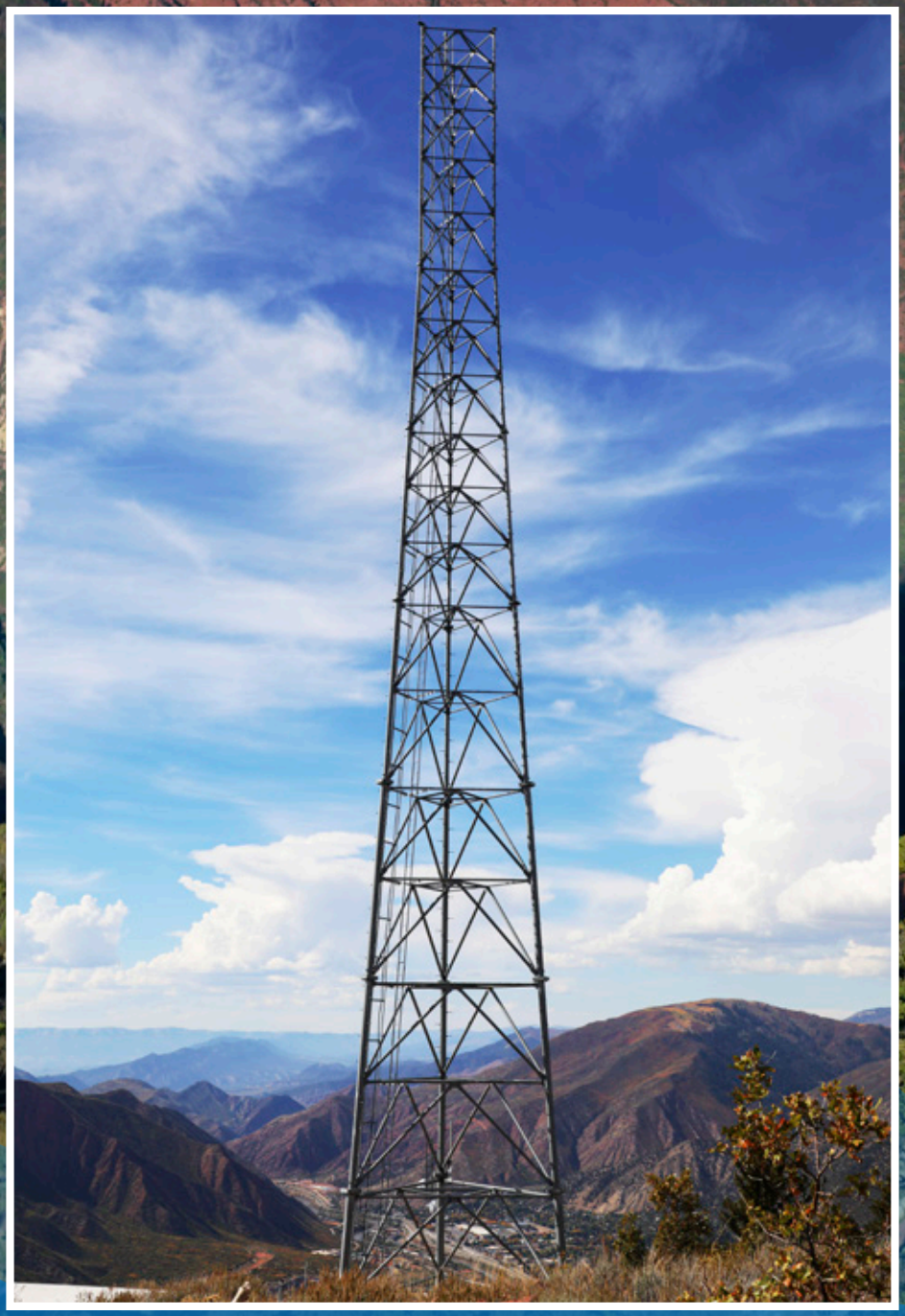
## Power
Utility; 25 kW generator, 1,000-gal propane

# COUNTY COMMUNICATION TOWERS

Garfield County owns and maintains four communication tower sites, all available to ISPs at published, uniformly applied rates. All four are new sites, built or newly re-towered within the past two years, with new shelters, current utility service, and backup generation at each location. They can be used for fixed wireless coverage of premises where fiber is not economical, for backhaul relay across terrain, or to provide service in a market while fiber construction proceeds.



# LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN



# COUNTY COMMUNICATION TOWERS



## Site

Lookout Mountain

## Location

CR 120, Glenwood Springs; elev. ~8,000′. BLM ROW to 2037

## Structure

Newly erected 150′ self-supporting tower; new 10′ × 30′ shelter, fenced compound

## Power

New 200 amp; 50 kW generator, 1,000-gal propane

# HARVEY GAP



## Site
Harvey Gap

## Location
CR 237, Silt; elev. ~7,400′. BLM ROW to 2043

## Structure
Two newly installed 65′ towers; new 10′× 10′ shelter

## Power
New 200 amp; 30 kW generator, 1,000-gal propane

# COUNTY COMMUNICATION TOWERS



# COUNTY COMMUNICATION TOWERS



## Site
Anvil Points

## Location
CR 246, Rifle; elev. ~6,600′. BLM ROW to 2046

## Structure
195′ tower and 10′ × 20′ shelter, both new in 2016

## Power
200 amp; 50 kW generator, 1,000-gal propane

# ANVIL POINTS



# COUNTY COMMUNICATION TOWERS

## Collocation rates

Rates are board-approved and applied uniformly to all tenants.

| Antenna type | Basis | Rate per foot / month | Add-ons per month |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dish | Per foot | $125.00 | Rack space $75; backup power $50 |
| Omni | Per 10 feet | $100.00 | Rack space $75; backup power $50 |
| Panel | 12″ wide | $125.00 | Rack space $75; backup power $50 |
| Yagi | Per horizontal foot | $50.00 | Rack space $75; backup power $50 |



# COUNTY COMMUNICATION TOWERS



# WIRELESS COVERAGE FROM THE ANVIL POINTS SITE

Garfield County asked NEO Connect to analyze how many households could be served from the landfill location using a wireless solution, as a lower-cost alternative for premises where fiber construction is difficult to justify. The results are summarized here and the underlying data is available to an interested provider.

FCC tower registrations and towers previously documented by Garfield County were examined for line of sight to the landfill. Two tower locations were identified as options for implementing wireless broadband service:

- Anvil Points, immediately west of the landfill — a Garfield County site, described in the tower table above.
- An ATC tower near Battlement Mesa at the end of County Road 310.

Line of sight was confirmed by NEO Connect, and independently confirmed for both locations.



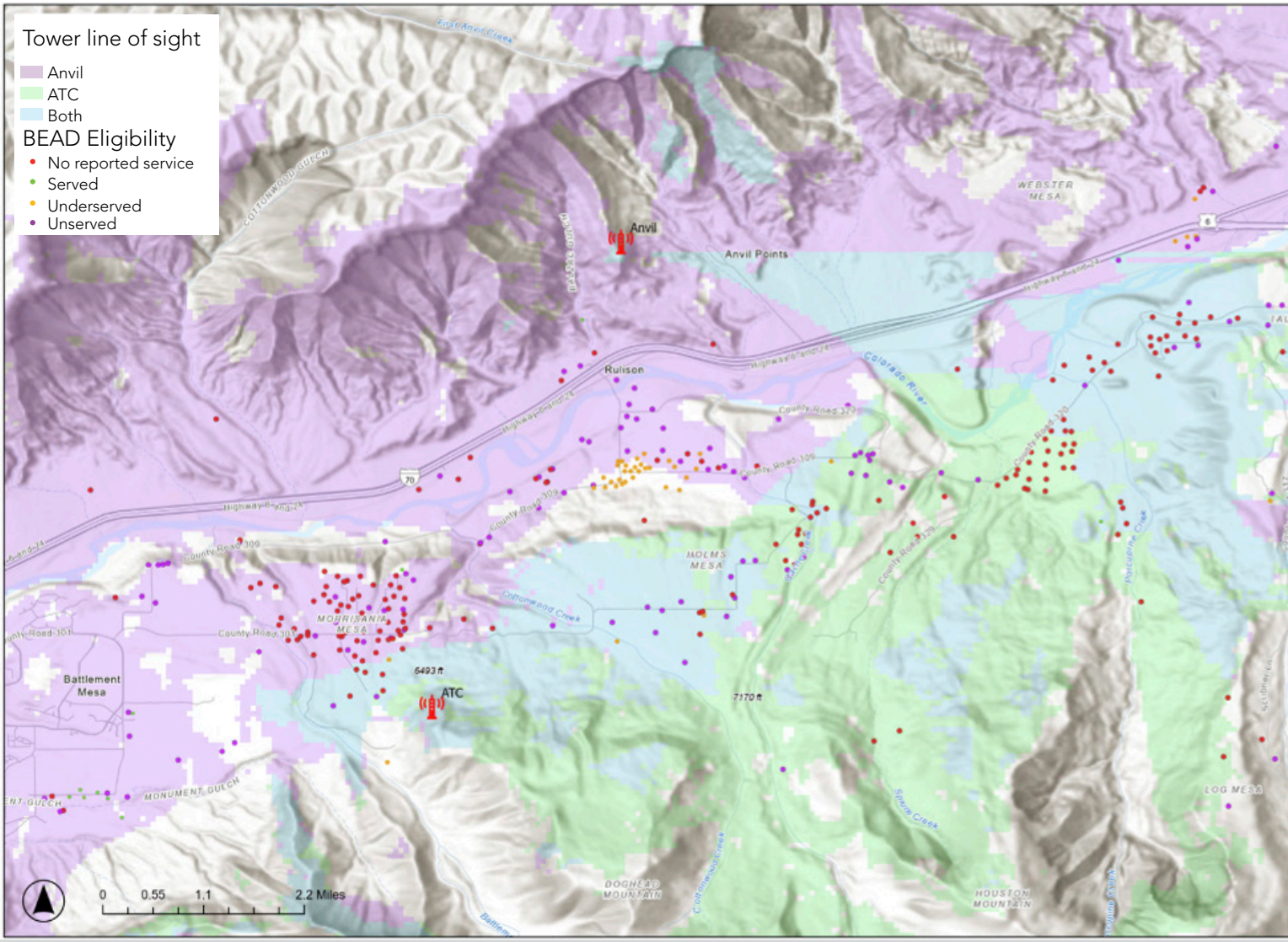
# LINE-OF-SIGHT ANALYSIS

Viewsheds were generated for each tower, and BEAD-eligible broadband serviceable locations with line of sight to one or both towers were identified. In the map that follows, purple shading indicates line of sight from the Anvil Points tower, green indicates line of sight from the ATC tower, and blue indicates areas with line of sight from both. Current broadband availability is overlaid on the viewshed areas: red dots are unserved households with no service or less than 25/3 Mbps, gold dots are underserved households below 100/20 Mbps, and green dots are served households.



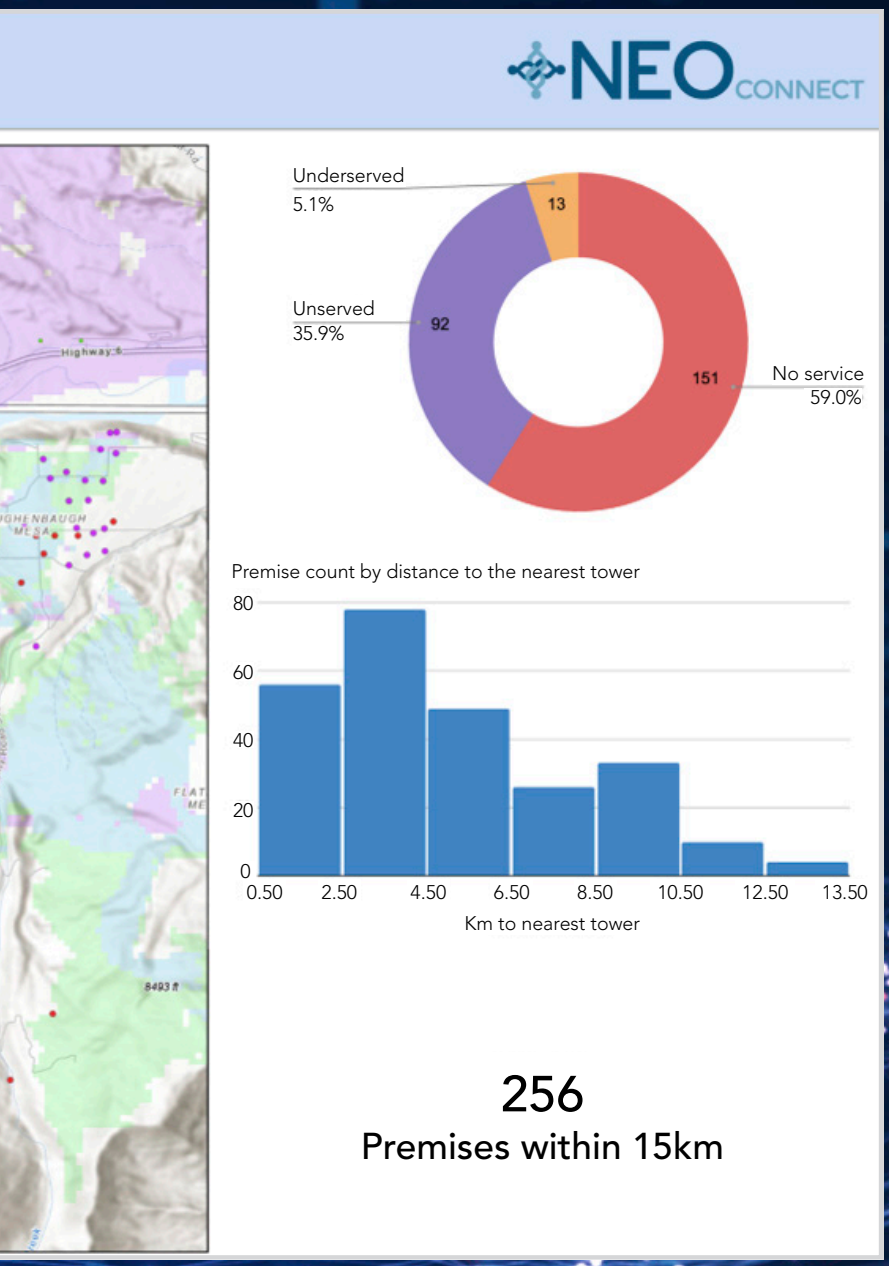
# WIRELESS COVERAGE FROM THE LANDFILL SITE

## Wireless study




Line-of-sight viewsheds from the Anvil Points and ATC tower locations, overlaid with current broadband availability. Analysis by NEO Connect for Garfield County.

# LINE-OF-SIGHT ANALYSIS




**Approximately 256 households** that currently lack broadband service could potentially be served with wireless broadband from the Anvil Points and ATC tower locations, based on confirmed line of sight from one or both sites.

This analysis is offered as one option among several. A provider may pursue it as a standalone wireless deployment, as an interim service layer while fiber is constructed, or as permanent coverage for the portion of the footprint where fiber would be cost prohibitive.

# THE BEAD OUTCOME

## Colorado's allocation and award

Colorado was allocated $826.5 million under BEAD. In June 2025, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) restructured the program: existing applications were eliminated, the fiber preference was removed, and scoring was rewritten to favor the lowest cost per location. The state re-ran the process under the new rules, and NTIA approved Colorado's Final Proposal in December 2025, obligating $420.6 million.

The resulting technology mix:

| Technology | Share of eligible locations | Share of funding |
|---|---|---|
| Fiber | 48% | 91% |
| LEO satellite | 50% | 8% |
| Fixed wireless | 2% | 1% |

Amazon bid on nearly every eligible location in the state and received a preliminary award of approximately $25.4 million covering roughly 44 percent of Colorado's eligible locations, an average of about $600 per location. SpaceX received a further 6 percent at roughly $1,700 per location.

Those locations are not built and are not under construction. The award does not restrict any other provider from serving them.

## Garfield County

Nearly all of Garfield County's BEAD-eligible locations were assigned to Amazon. There are no BEAD-funded fiber overbuilders coming to the county and no subsidized competitor building toward those premises. The unserved footprint is mapped and documented, and the five incorporated towns adjacent to it were never eligible for grant funding in the first place.

## Status of the awarded technology

### Amazon Leo (formerly Project Kuiper), as of September 2026

- No residential customers, anywhere in the United States. The service is in beta with a public waitlist. Amazon has said it is positioned to begin service "later this year." Independent trackers place limited beta in late 2026 to early 2027 and broad availability in 2027.
- Roughly 400 satellites are in orbit of a planned 3,236, about 12 percent of the constellation. Coverage modeling indicates 578 or more are required before initial service can be activated.
- On June 9, 2026, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) waived Amazon's obligation to have half the constellation — 1,616 satellites — in orbit by July 30, 2026. Satellites launched after that date lose their original spectrum priority until the 50 percent threshold is met or March 2028, whichever comes first. The full-constellation deadline remains July 30, 2029.
- The service is benchmarked to 100/20 Mbps on shared capacity, not symmetrical gigabit.

Satellite has a role in terrain where wireline construction is not feasible. The point here is one of timing; the subsidized alternative in Garfield County is not commercially available, and is unlikely to be for some time.

# PERMITTING AND LOCAL APPROVALS

## Expedited permitting

The county will prioritize review and approval of ISP permit applications for FTTP construction and assign staff to coordinate the process.

## Coordinated access to the jurisdictions

The county will convene and facilitate meetings between you and the town managers, councils, and public works staff of New Castle, Silt, Rifle, Parachute, and Carbondale, alongside county staff, to assist in discussions to help streamline the permitting process and to coordinate with any potential use of existing fiber or dig-once initiatives.

## Regulatory environment

- Garfield County and the communities of New Castle, Silt, and Carbondale opted out of SB 152 by voter referendum in November 2016; Glenwood Springs opted out earlier. Public-private partnership structures are legally available across the corridor without a further election.
- Carbondale and Glenwood Springs have adopted shadow conduit policies, placing spare conduit whenever the right-of-way is open. Broadband-friendly ordinance language has been developed and distributed to every jurisdiction in the county.



# WHAT GARFIELD COUNTY IS LOOKING FOR

The county has no interest in becoming a service provider itself.

Garfield County is interested in reducing its internet and transport costs for local government facilities. The county and each of the municipalities have an interest in dark fiber and lit services connecting government-owned buildings — administration, public safety, libraries, and community anchor institutions — and each entity would negotiate its own arrangement individually.

Beyond that, the county's objective is gigabit-capable service available to every home and business in Garfield County, delivered by an operator intending to serve the area long term. The structure is open: full private build, public-private partnership, phased deployment, a single town, or the entire county.



# NEXT STEPS

There is no RFP window or procurement calendar involved. Garfield County will meet with interested providers on request.

A first conversation would cover which part of the market interests you — the unserved footprint, the town markets, or both — the collocation and transport terms available to you, the government connectivity discussion, and a scoping of the permitting and stakeholder process. The county can provide project area mapping and eligibility data, prior application materials, carrier-neutral facility specifications, tower site packets, the landfill line-of-sight analysis, and introductions to Region 10 for transport.



# CONTACTS

## Partnership and deployment inquiries

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